

nor is it a credible tactic. The American people deserve more than a dismissal of Professor Ford's charges. They deserve to know the truth.

Mr. Speaker, let us take time to uncover the truth. I gave this same exact speech on October 8, 1991. The only difference was the substitution of Clarence Thomas' name for Brett Kavanaugh's and Anita Hill's for Christine Blasey Ford's.

Republicans attempted to censure me for that speech. History is repeating itself before our eyes, and women are once again being ignored instead of being believed.

We must do better than that in the United States of America and in the United States Congress.

#### URGING THE SENATE TO CONFIRM JUDGE BRETT KAVANAUGH

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Senate to confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh. Judge Kavanaugh has a clear record as a thoughtful jurist who respects and will defend our Constitution. Those who have worked with him over the years and know him best strongly defend his record as a good man who loves his family and our country.

I am ashamed we find ourselves where we are today. It is shameful the way that Judge Kavanaugh has had his name smeared, just as it is shameful that Dr. Ford has been used as a pawn in a political game. Frankly, my heart hurts for both of them.

Our government is only as good as the people who serve in it, and I am deeply concerned that this whole series of events will encourage fewer good men and women to take up the call of government service.

Mr. Speaker, this circus must end. The Senate should vote on Judge Kavanaugh, approve him to serve on the Supreme Court, and allow our great country to move forward.

□ 1245

#### THE RULE OF LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION MUST PREVAIL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to join my friend from Texas, as the author of the Violence Against Women Act.

In 2018, I encouraged my colleagues to step up and pass this vital legislation that now protects all who have been abused in some way from sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and, yes, domestic violence.

I am saddened that the House has not seen fit to join this bill that I have authored with over 35 national non-

partisan groups and, as well, with over 150-plus Members of the United States Congress. It is time now.

Finally, sitting in the United States Senate, listening to the hearings regarding Judge Kavanaugh and Dr. Ford, let me say that I hope our colleagues will yield not to politics but to the rule of law, adhere to the American Bar Association that says pause, to the Jesuits who have taken away their endorsement, and realize that we are not the important factor, but it was the weight of the Supreme Court that requires better.

Finally, I am delighted to note that we are moving forward on juvenile justice, as we have done today—legislation that I have authored—and that we are working on behalf of the people.

But again, Mr. Speaker, it is important in the United States Senate that the rule of law and the Constitution prevail. Advice and consent must be given with knowledge.

#### NATIONAL URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE DAY

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support my resolution, H. Res. 1088, a resolution recognizing this Saturday, September 29, as National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day.

Across the country, urban wildlife refuges are places for families to gather and enjoy the outdoors. Urban refuges are places where communities can come together to preserve nature, and places to inspire the next generation of hunters and anglers.

I encourage all generations, whether old or young, to go visit one of the 101 national urban wildlife refuges throughout the United States.

I thank Representative HAKEEM JEFFRIES for partnering with me on this legislation to help further emphasize the value of our Nation's urban wildlife refuges.

#### WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, signed into law on October 2, 1968.

This landmark conservation bill launched a movement. It helped us recognize and protect the free-flowing rivers with "outstandingly remarkable" characteristics.

In Rhode Island and Connecticut, we have just such waterways, including the branches of the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers.

Just this week, in cooperation with Senator JACK REED, I introduced legislation to designate the 110 miles of this river system as a Wild and Scenic

River. After 3 years of intense study, the National Park Service has found it to have areas of pristine beauty, recreational importance, and untouched wilderness.

I applaud the work of Denise Poyer, the study coordinator at the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, and all of those who have volunteered their time to protect this river.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee to complete this designation.

#### CONGRATULATING JIM PAXTON

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jim Paxton of the First District of Kentucky on his retirement from the Paducah Sun newspaper.

Within the first year of his career, he quickly rose through the ranks to serve as the Paducah Sun's editor and publisher. As he and his brothers joined the generations of Paxton family members who have led and managed Paxton Media Group, they began to expand their operations into local television broadcasting with WPSD-TV and radio broadcasts, eventually owning and managing more than 35 daily and weekly newspapers throughout the Southeastern United States.

The Paducah Sun's continued success is a testament to Jim's belief that local newspapers should focus on prominently featuring news from the community, while also striking the appropriate balance of State and national coverage.

Throughout his career, Jim Paxton has established an outstanding legacy as a revered public servant and titan of western Kentucky media. He is widely respected for his pursuit of meaningful, insightful journalism, and I am thankful for his friendship and guidance throughout the years.

As he begins the next phase of his life, I join with his family and friends, as well as those he has impacted during his career, to express our dedication and gratitude for his contributions to western Kentucky.

#### NATIONAL URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE DAY

(Mr. JEFFRIES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1088, a resolution recognizing September 29 as National Urban Wildlife Refuge Day, authored by Representative WITTMAN.

Earlier this year, my bill, Keep America's Refuges Operational Act, became law. That bipartisan bill reauthorized a volunteer, community partnership, and education program for our National Wildlife Refuge System.